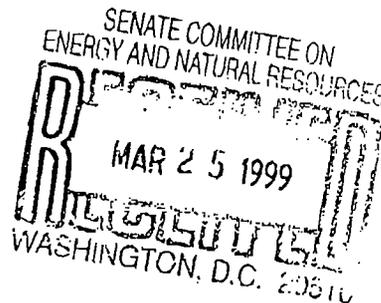


United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

March 23, 1999

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510



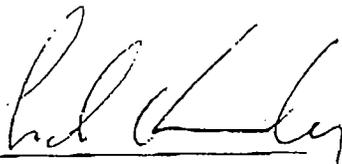
Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing with respect to nuclear waste policy and the storage of nuclear waste. We believe that any comprehensive nuclear waste legislation that provides a centralized, permanent facility must, in addition to other issues, fully address the urgent needs of the permanently shutdown nuclear power reactors undergoing decommissioning.

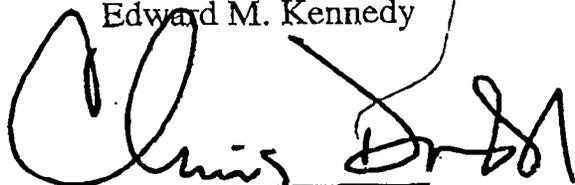
We request that such legislation include an accelerated waste acceptance schedule. This provision would give high priority to spent fuel currently stored at commercial reactor sites undergoing decommissioning. Such a provision is an essential part of any nuclear waste legislation, because it assures that decommissioned plants will not be responsible for additional and unnecessary on-site storage costs, which could have a disproportionately high impact on ratepayers.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to working with you in the future as the Senate develops an effective federal nuclear waste program.

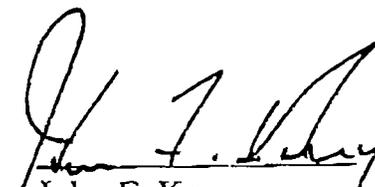
Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy



Christopher J. Dodd



John F. Kerry



Joseph I. Lieberman